

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-46 and 48-54 were pending and all of the claims were rejected in the present Office action. Claims 1, 18, 35 and 46 have been amended. Claims 55-58 have been added. No new matter has been added. The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments place the respective claims in condition for allowance. The Applicants continue to maintain the traverse of the election of species requirement. In the alternative, as the amendments place the application in condition for allowance, the Applicants respectfully request that Claim 47 be rejoined and allowed as a dependent claim.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 4-12, 18, 21-31, 35, 37-41, 45-46 and 48-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (US 6,445,432; “Yamamoto”). Claims 2-3, 19-20 and 36 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamamoto as applied to Claims 1, 4-12, 18, 21-31, 35, 37-41 and 50-54, and in view of Shin (US 5,825,449; “Shin”). Claims 13-17, 32-34 and 42-44, were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamamoto as applied to Claims 1, 4-12, 18, 21-31, 35, 37-41 and 50-54, and in view of Song (US 6,307,602; “Song”).

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, only the plurality of transparent layers filling a space between the thin film transistor and the liquid crystal layer.

The cited references fail to disclose or suggest only the plurality of transparent layers filling a space between the thin film transistor and the liquid crystal layer. (Office Action dated June 21, 2006; page 2). Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Independent Claims 18, 35 and 46 recite features that are substantially similar to the distinguishable feature of Claim 1. Claims 18, 35 and 46 are allowable for at least this reason.

Dependent Claims 2 – 17, 19 – 34, 36 – 45 and 47 – 54 depend from a respective allowable base claim, so are allowable for at least this reason.

New Claims

Claim 55 recites, *inter alia*, a light-shielding color filter pattern over each thin film transistor, each light-shielding color filter pattern including at least two of red, green or blue color filter patterns, wherein one of the included filter patterns has a trench accommodating a filter pattern of another of the colors.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the limitation of Claim 55 recited above is not found in Yamamoto, and therefore Claim 55 is not anticipated and is allowable. Support for this amendment is found at least in Fig. 6H of the specification.

Claim 58 recites similar subject matter to that of Claim 55 and is allowable for the same reasons.

Method Claims 56 and 57 have been amended to clarify the subject matter claimed.

Claim 56 recites, *inter alia*, forming a light-shielding color filter pattern over each semiconductor layer using a mask having half-transmitting portions.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the limitation of Claim 56 recited above is not found in Yamamoto, and therefore Claim 56 is not anticipated and is allowable. Support for this amendment is found in at least paragraph [0072] and Fig. 6H of the specification.

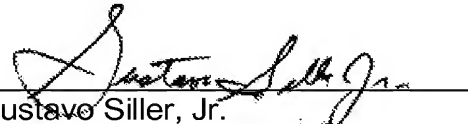
Claim 57 recites similar subject matter to that of Claim 56 and is allowable for the same reasons.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons given above, the application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,


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